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The present Governor of our Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia, Mr. William Van Zandt Cox, and several other fellow members have recently requested a copy of my paper of April 11, 1906, in which I suggested that a monument be erected by the Society to commemorate the Colonial war services of the three Colonels Beall.

I have accordingly thought best to have the paper printed for complimentary presentation to each of my associates in the Society, hoping thereby to arouse new interest in the proposed memorial.

ZEBINA MOSES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1908.

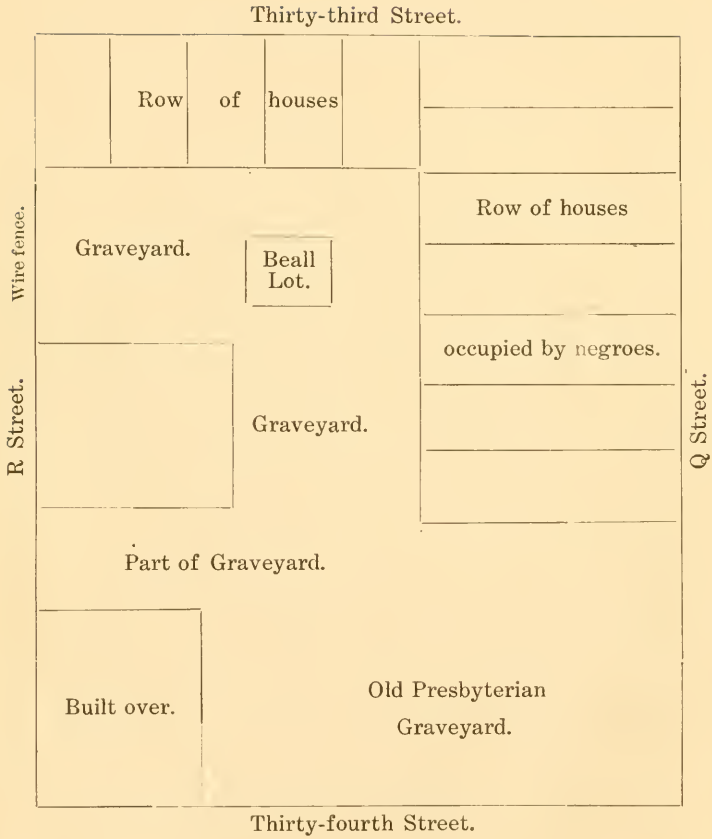
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11, 1906.

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND FELLOW MEMBERS
OF THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS:

At its last meeting the Society made an urgent appeal to members to communicate any historical material they might have, and I accordingly present a few notes which I am far from regarding as a finished paper. They have one merit in that they relate to the District of Columbia, in which our Society is located. They are intended to open the question whether after we have placed a tablet or monument commemorating the landing of the Braddock Expedition we should not also place a tablet exploiting the colonial fame of Colonel George Beall and of Colonel Ninian Beall, his father.

About one year ago I visited the old Presbyterian Cemetery of Georgetown, and there I found many stones erected in memory of noted people of Colonial days. The condition of the old graveyard is a disgrace to humanity. It has been made a dumping ground for tin cans, carrion, and refuse, and the ground is being occupied under so-called squatters' rights by negroes and others—a barn going up while I was on the grounds.

A diagram which I will circulate among the members outlines the original location of the cemetery and what remains of it. The Beall family burial plot is shown upon the diagram.



That the neglect has been of long standing is shown from the *Chronicles of Georgetown*, by Richard P. Jackson, published in 1878.

He states:

“The following appeared in a town paper: ‘It would have been difficult to believe that the grounds belonged to a Christian community. The broken fences, open gates, grazing cattle upon the very grass that flourished over the bosom of departed worth, the marks of sacrilegious destruction upon the monumental pile by idle, rude, and vulgar hands, sickened my very soul and almost determined me not to be buried in a place appropriated for the dead or even to allow a turf to mark the spot where my remains may rest.

Signed, A NON-RESIDENT.’

“When the committee appointed a number of ladies a collection was made among the lot holders to put the graveyard in order. Among the tombstones, Robert Peter, the first Mayor; James Gillespie, M. C. from North Carolina; Wm. Waters, soldier of the Revolution; Col. Geo. Beall, born in Georgetown, 1729. The town must have been a villiage at the time of Col. Beall’s birth.”

The description of 1878 fits the condition of the grounds at the present time. A member of the Presbyterian Society of Georgetown, (which still owns the ground), told me a couple of weeks since that the Society had no money with which to improve the condition of the premises or even to litigate with the squatters.

Near the east side of the grounds may be seen two sandstone monuments about forty inches high, with inscriptions reading:

Sacred to the Memory
of
COLONEL GEORGE BEALL.

He was born in Georgetown
on the 26th day of February
1729.

He died Oct. 15th
1807

In the 79th Year of his Age

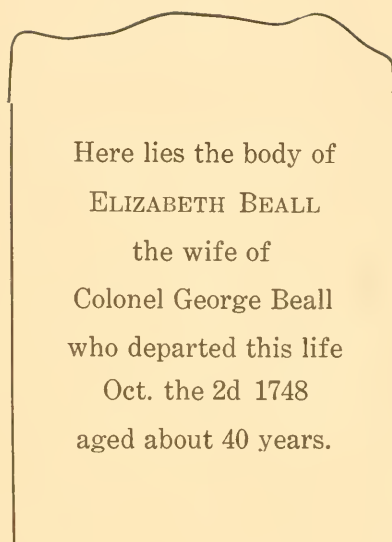
He lived
and died

Flaked or
chipped
off.

ected
mented.

Note.—Sandstone, about 40 inches high and 26 inches broad.

Note.—In the old Presbyterian Cemetery between Q and R and Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth streets at Georgetown, about 150 feet from R and about 60 feet from east end of cemetery, on a former graveyard road running north and south.



Note.—Of sandstone, about 33 inches high and 24 inches wide.

Note.—Between this stone and the monument to Col. Beall is a stone slab about 33x24 inches; the inscription is flaked off, except part of the word “aged.” This broken stone may have marked the grave of the first Colonel George Beall, husband of Elizabeth and father of Colonel George Beall, born 1729.

I pass to members for examination a rough sketch of these stones and inscriptions, together with a photograph of the inscription relating to Colonel George Beall which a friend has taken for me. A member of the Washington family was also buried in the lot. See drawing showing inscription reading:

THOS. B. A. WASHINGTON

Eldest Son of George C. and E. B.
Washington who departed this
life on

the 2d of February in the
Year of our Lord
1809.

Note.—This stone had sunk so far in the ground that I could not read the age.

Note.—This stone is placed about two feet directly back of stone to the wife of Colonel George Beall, and it looks as though the burial of Thomas Washington was directly above the body of Elizabeth Beall, whose interment had been made 61 years previously.

Miss S. Somervell Mackall's "Early Days of Washington," states:

"The grounds of Oak Hill Cemetery originally belonged to Eliza Beall, wife of George C. Washington, a grandnephew of the immortal George, who in appearance resembled his uncle greatly."

I now quote from a book entitled, "The Brooke Family," by Thomas Welling Balch, which, please note, gives in full the inscription since obliterated on the stone to the *first* Colonel George Beall. The quotation reads:

"Colonel George Beall, youngest son of Ninian Beall, born at Upper Marlboro in 1695 and died at Georgetown March 15, 1780."

The inscription on gravestone is:

"Here lieth Colonel George Beall who departed this life March 15, 1780, aged 85 years."

The word "aged" was all that was left of this inscription when I saw the stone a year ago.

Balch goes on to say: "He was buried by the side of his wife (see page 22) in the *family burying ground near the house*. This house is described in brackets as the premises known at present as "*(N street, near Thirty-first)*."

"Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Beall" (Elizabeth Brooke), "the wife of Colonel George Beall, who departed this life Oct. 2, 1748, aged about 49 years." * * * "In recent years their bodies, with those of their children, were removed to Oak Hill."

From the foregoing it would seem that the Presbyterian Cemetery might have been laid out around the *private burial lot of the Bealls*.

Before leaving the subject of the old graveyard I will state that though the stones remain, it is certain that the bodies of the Bealls were removed.

I have given this much space to a description of this old cemetery partly because it affords knowledge of a fast vanishing record of men of note living in Colonial days, and should be interesting to our Society for that reason, and mainly, because we get there from records on stone dates of birth and death and *military titles* borne by the Bealls. In Colonial days no one was given soldierly rank by courtesy. Certainly such high titles would not be placed on the Beall gravestones unless of right they belonged there. We also get from

these cemetery inscriptions the association with Georgetown at as early a date of birth as 1729, and also with the lands which at a still earlier date belonged to Colonel Ninian Beall, and on which Georgetown was afterwards built.

We will now proceed to the more important work of examining as to the prominence in Colonial times of these three worthies.

I quote first from the, "Chronicles of Georgetown," by Richard P. Jackson, a book of 348 pages published in 1878, page 3:

"The Legislature of Maryland by act of May 15, 1751, authorized Henry Wright Crabb, John Needham, John Claggett, James Perry, and David Lynn, Commissioners to lay out and erect a town on the Potomac River above the mouth of Rock Creek and empowered them to purchase 60 acres belonging to George Gordon and George Beall, to survey the same into 80 lots to be crected into a town and to be called Georgetown."

From page 5:

"Others again suppose that the name came from George Beall, who was an able *soldier* and a great *fighter of Indians* in the province, but more likely it took its name from George II."

Observe this historian's statement that George Beall the 2d was an "able soldier and *great fighter of Indians*."

I now quote again from the volume entitled the, "Brooke Family of Whitchurch, Hampshire, England," by Thomas Welling Balch, a scholarly and careful writer:

"Col Ninian Beall was born 1625 in Scotland. He was very husy fighting Indians until the end of his life, rising higher and higher until he became a full colonel. * * On July 22, 1699, the Maryland Assembly passed the following act:

'An act of Gratitude to Col. Ninian Beall. For his services upon all incursions and disturhances of the neighboring Indians 75£ sterling.'

In 1703 he received the following grant from Lord Baltimore which included much of the ground upon which Georgetown now stands.

Ninian Beall's patent is for 795 acres called the *Rock of Dunbarton*. The author gives the deed in full pages 25, 26 and 27.

Ninian Beall's will on record in Annapolis commences: 'I, Ninian Beall, of Prince Georges County.'

He died in 1717 in his 93d year."

In further confirmation of my deductions from the gravestones, and of my comments as to Colonial and Military titles, I quote again from Balch's "Brooke Family:"

"George, the 4th child and 2d son of Colonel George Beall and Elizabeth Brooke, his wife, was also in the *army*, as the inscription on his tombstone shows. He served in the Company of Colonel George Beall. He was born in Georgetown on the 26th day of February, 1729. He died Oct. 15, 1807, in the 79th year of his age. He lived respected and died lamented."

As showing that Indians were hostile and that there was Indian fighting within a hundred miles of Georgetown at as late a date as 1755, I now quote from Scharf's "Western Maryland," Vol. 1, page 93:

"In consequence of these outrages Governor Sharpe on the 18th day of October called out the militia of the Province.
* * * * * Governor Sharpe ordered into service the militia of *Frederick*, Prince Georges, Baltimore, Cecil, Anne Arundel, Charles, and St. Marys Counties to rendezvous at Frederick Oct. 10, 1755."

(Georgetown was at that time in Frederick County.)

On page 94 of the same history, and relating to the same period (1755), I quote:

"*Scalping parties* approached to within thirty miles of Baltimore."

To summarize:

We have historical statements that here in the District of Columbia were the estates of three Colonels and Indian fighters of the Colonial period.

They were great land holders. Balch further states:

"On Jany. 18, 1720, he, (Col. Ninian Beall), received a grant of 1,380 acres known as *Addition to the Rock of Dumbarton*."

This would make the estate total 2,175 acres.

I now quote from Miss S. Somervell Mackall's "Early Days of Washigton:"

"Mrs. Geo. C. Washington, (who was Eliza Beall), lived on the south side of Road St. in the house now owned by Columbus Alexander's family. William W. Corcoran bought 15 additional acres of this land known as the Rock of Dumbarton for \$3,000 and presented it to the town as a burying ground. His contributions to Oak Hill amounted to \$20,000." * * * * "The grounds of Oak Hill Cemetery originally belonged to Eliza Beall, wife of George C. Washington—a grandnephew of the immortal George, who in appearance resembled his uncle greatly."

For further identification of localities I quote again from Miss Mackall's book, page 154:

"To each of his daughters Mr. Beall gave a double square of Georgetown Heights; to Benj. Mackall's wife (Catherine) part of the Rock of Dumbarton known as Mackall's Square, where quite a large house was built. 100 years ago this building was removed to another part of Mr. Beall's estate on Congress St., where it still stands."

On page 158 of the book is given a picture of this old wooden Beall house.

The Rev. T. B. Balch in a rare pamphlet published in 1859 entitled, "Reminiscences of Georgetown," mentions as follows the descendants of Col. George Beall:

"A son, Thomas Brooke Beall, President of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Georgetown, died in 1820. In 1782 the eldest daughter married Rev. Dr. Balch of the Presbyterian Church on Bridge St.

Thomas Beall, brother of George, built a home on the heights called Dumbarton and died in 1819.

Thomas had two daughters—one married a great nephew of General Washington, the other married Major John Peter, once Mayor of Georgetown."

According to Thomas Welling Balch in his able work on the "Brooke Family" and from the passage I have already quoted, the original home or manor house of the

Bealls stood at what is now known as N street near Thirty-first Street.

How does all this appeal to our Society? I think I may assume that it is the sentiment of this Society that we should prove our faith by some works, and I know of no better way than by placing monuments or tablets to commemorate events and noted men of the Colonial period. The District of Columbia is less than ten miles square, and we are therefore territorially restricted. I think that first we should mark the spot of Braddock's landing or route of march, and second, I favor a monument either at the site of the old Beall mansion or near the gate inside the inclosure in Oak Hill Cemetery, with an inscription stating in a general way that the monument is erected by the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia on a part of what was known as the "Rock of Dumbarton," the name of the estate in succession of Colonel Ninian Beall, born 1625, Colonel George Beall, born 1695, and Colonel George Beall, born in Georgetown in 1729, all noted Indian fighters. The "Act of Gratitude" of the Maryland Assembly might be quoted on the tablet, as it, or at least its caption, is very short.

These notes are at best incomplete. I am sure that Mr. Hyde or Mr. Peter or others of our membership, who were born in Georgetown, could have given us more light.

I hope I have aroused some interest in my subject and shall be gratified if members of our Society will add to my unfinished researches.

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